

5 May 1964

Mr. Robert D. Loomis
Random House, Inc.
457 Madison Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Loomis:

Following our talk on the telephone I conferred with [redacted] who for years acted as our contact with public information media and who was forced to retire last Fall because of ill health.

He recalled to me that I had met David Wise and Mr. Ross on August 20th, 1963, a fact that had escaped my mind. I attach, for your information, [redacted] memorandum of our discussion. You will note that I discouraged the idea of a book for the reasons expressed and then explained briefly the relationship of CIA with State, Defense, and the White House, as well as several committees of Congress. I wound up by suggesting that they submit their book for checking, most particularly against errors or security violations, which obviously was not done.

I also invited further discussion. However, when Mr. Wise lunched with me on April 28th he did not mention the book. Since he came to see me in his new capacity as Bureau Chief of the New York Herald Tribune, I failed to recall his prior visit and the memorandum for the record had not been brought to my attention.

My purpose in writing and transmitting this memorandum is to correct the information I gave you over the telephone -- that is I had not met David Wise.

You will hear from me further on the subject of our telephone conversation.

Sincerely,

757 John A. McCone by
John A. McCone [redacted]
Director

P.S. After I talked with you I called Mr. Wise. His office informed me that he was out of town for a week and they did not know his whereabouts.

Attachment:

JAM:mcm

1 - DCI Chrono w/ att

① - DCI Alphabet w/att

20 August 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

The Director, at lunch today, saw Tom Ross, CHICAGO SUN TIMES, and David Wise, NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE, who are writing a book covering the subject of United States intelligence to be published by Random House next spring. At the luncheon with the DCI and the two newspapermen was Colonel Grogan. The conference continued in the Director's private dining room until 1410 hours.

The Director, at the outset, said he thought that any articles or books about intelligence were undesirable from the viewpoint of an intelligence officer. They said that on the Hill they had heard much talk of a Watch-Dog Committee for the CIA. The Director went into some detail in explaining how the few people on such committees who receive all the information are reluctant to share their knowledge with other members of the Congress not on these special committees. He told of experiences with the Atomic Energy Commission Joint Committee which did not pass on information to the Foreign Relations Committee. He explained in answer to a question that there are three committees now known as CIA subcommittees, and the reason there isn't a fourth is because members of the Senate CIA Subcommittee are also members of the Appropriations Committee of the Senate. The membership of the CIA subcommittees is not public, he said.

Mr. McCone thought the present relationship with the Congress is quite satisfactory as is the relationship of the CIA with the State Department, Defense Department, and White House, our principal customers. He explained his duties as Director of Central Intelligence under the law and under the President's directive of 16 January 1962. He explained the functioning of the USIB and of the Board of National Estimates and the relationships between DIA and CIA. He went into some detail into the functioning of the estimators on the Board, how they are staffed by the DDI, how USIB passes on what estimates are to be made and the priority, and on the Director's own responsibility for the final product.

There was some discussion of public relations and the desire of CIA for anonymity. At the conclusion, Mr. McCone said he might later see them again if they so wished and perhaps go more into the structure of CIA and the changes he has made. He suggested that maybe they would

like to submit their copy when they have finished. They said they would have to think that over. He asked them to discuss it with me. They did. They are reluctant but will think it over. I pointed out that it would be helpful to them. We might discover errors. We might point out some violations of national security; and having done that without attribution, the final decision would be theirs as to whether they accept or don't accept our suggestions.

They said they are very anxious to come back again after they do some writing and have another session with the Director. They asked if they might interview General Carter, Mr. Helms, and Mr. Kirkpatrick. I told them that since the Director had seen them, no one else in the Agency would be made available. They said this was quite satisfactory.

Stanley J. Grogan
Assistant to the Director